

## U. S. SEEKING CAUSE OF RISE IN GASOLINE

Government Agencies Conducting Investigation—Prices Staggering Motor Owners.

By JUDSON C. WELLS.

With gasoline at prices that stagger the motoring section of humanity, and threatening shortly to go still higher, even to 25 cents the gallon, various Government instrumentalities are conducting inquiries to determine the cause. It is not yet possible to say when the results will be published. Neither can it be more than conjectured what will be done about it after the investigation is finished, because until that time it will be impossible to judge, officially, whether any rascally job has been set up on the downtrodden motorist, and, if any, who perpetrated it.

**1,500-Mile Trip Costly.**

The other day a new Western Congressman arrived in Washington in his automobile. He had come just about 1,500 miles, almost due east, and he told a fearful story of what he did to a new-fledged statesman when he gets too far from home.

"I left the Missouri river with my car full of gasoline that cost me 11 cents a gallon," he said. "They raised me just about every time I got a new jar of the stuff into the tank, until I was paying 21, and the first time I got the thing filled after arriving in Washington, they deftly took 22 cents away from me."

The Congressman wondered how the differences in price on the various steps of his journey were to be justified.

When this case was laid before an official who has had some casual knowledge of some branches of the investigation now being made by the Government, that gentleman smiled and said:

"There you see the beauties of really free competition in the oil business, as enforced by the decree that made seventy-odd competing concerns out of the Standard Oil Company."

It was an interesting suggestion, but (Continued on Page Six.)

## STORM SWEEPING THROUGH ILLINOIS

Wires Down, Trains Delayed, Twenty Injured, and One Death Reported.

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—A heavy snowstorm that delayed trains throughout Illinois brought a genuine white Christmas to the middle West today.

Ten inches of snow fell at Springfield, Ill., and eleven at Bloomington, Ill. Chicago streets are clad in a white mantle several inches deep.

St. Louis reported one dead and twenty injured in traffic accidents due to the storm. Wire service to many points was demoralized from St. Louis. Eight and one-half inches of snow fell there.

**Traffic Tied Up By a Deep Snow Throughout Michigan**

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 25.—Detroit awoke today to the whitest "white Christmas" of recent years. Six inches of heavy snow mantled the city.

Street car traffic was seriously delayed, despite the efforts of more than a thousand workmen to clear the streets. Train in many instances were hours late.

**Pope to Continue His Efforts Toward Peace**

ROME, Dec. 25.—Pope Benedict has not abandoned hope for an early peace. It is learned. In replying to a Christmas address on behalf of the Sacred College, he admitted that his present efforts have been fruitless, but said that he is determined to continue his peace efforts.

**PASTOR RUSSELL.**

The Battle of Armageddon, New National, 8 p. m., Sunday. Free.

## THANKS THE TIMES FOR AIDING CHARITABLE WORK

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

Sir: Permit us on Christmas morning, when the returns of our fourteen opportunities have proven so gratifying, to thank The Washington Times for its generous co-operation. No money at our disposal could have purchased the space which you have so generously given us.

In the name of the fourteen households, consisting of fifty-three children and sixteen adults, whose preservation for another year has been assured, we thank you.

Very respectfully,  
CUNO H. RUDOLPH,  
President, The Associated Charities.  
Washington, December 25.

## ELEVEN PIECES OF MORE THAN ENOUGH MAIL TO EVERYONE TO CARE FOR NEEDY

Nearly 4,000,000 Pieces Are Received in the Washington Postoffice. Generous Citizens Provide Christmas Cheer and Comfort for All Opportunities.

Every Washingtonian received an average of eleven pieces of Christmas mail, according to records at the city postoffice, which show that almost 4,000,000 letters and other kinds of mail reached there for distribution among the 500,000 inhabitants of the National Capital during the five days ending this morning.

Washington was equally generous in its remembrance of friends with Christmas greetings and presents, postal records showing that just as many outgoing letters and packages were received for forwarding.

If the postal records may be taken as a criterion, Washington is enjoying its biggest Christmas, and the friends and relatives of citizens of the National Capital are equally fortunate.

**One Gigantic Mail.**

Although Washington had but one letter mail delivery today, it was a whopper, being estimated at twenty times an ordinary delivery, and almost twice the size of last Christmas mail here.

Fifteen automobiles, six two-horse wagons and forty one-horse wagons, all the carriers at substitutes on the local force, and many extra men started from the postoffice at 7:30 o'clock this morning "loaded to the guards" with Christmas mail and scattered all over town to spread Christmas cheer coming from afar.

Although the automobiles and wagons whizzed here and there like will-o'-the-wisps, and the carriers delivered mail as fast as they could, it was well on toward noon before the entire volume was distributed to the individuals to whom the letters and packages were addressed.

Postmaster Chance planned to run the wagons and automobiles all day to deliver the enormous masses of incoming parcel post and other package mail. The (Continued on Second Page.)

## Rain Sure Today, Says Weather Man

Lower Temperatures Predicted For Tonight—Tomorrow Fair and Colder.

Despite the fact that Old Sol's smiling face peeped from behind a veil of clouds this morning to say merry Christmas to Washington, the weather man stuck to his theory of yesterday that rain would get here today.

It is a trifle late, he says, but will arrive late this afternoon or tonight, according to present indications.

The storm was centered this morning over Ohio and was coming this way. Snow is falling in Missouri, Michigan and Illinois, while it is raining throughout the Southern States.

Lower temperatures are predicted for tonight and tomorrow will be fair and colder.

## What the Year 1916 Has In Store For the World

The prophecies of the world's great soothsayers have a peculiar interest in this time of universal unrest. Madame Thebes, the great astrologist, of Paris, foretold with remarkable precision the events of the great war now in progress.

**Gabriel Neith, Astrologer Extraordinary,**  
has written for The Sunday Times a startling forecast for the year 1916. Whether you have faith in astrology or not, it will prove extraordinarily interesting.

Tomorrow In The Times

## HANNA QUILTS PEACE PARTY AFTER CLASH

North Dakota Governor, in Rage, Charges Ford Lieutenants With Misrepresentation.

By CHARLES P. STEWART.

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 25.—On Christmas Day, the day Henry Ford hoped "to bring the boys out of the trenches," a fresh row broke out in the ranks of the peace delegates whom Ford left to carry out his program while he returned to America.

Gov. L. B. Hanna of North Dakota today quit the party in a rage, after a clash with the Ford lieutenants. William J. Bryan has been summoned to take Ford's place as head of the party. Some of the delegates are said to have cabled an urgent appeal to him.

**Other Trouble Brewing.**

Other trouble is brewing. Judge Ben B. Lindsey, appointed by Ford to head the committee to wind up the peace expedition, obtained from the Detroit mail approval of his scheme for adding gwar copiers. But the new managers, including Gaston Plantiff, Ford's New York automobile business manager, announced today that they will be completely repudiate all motions they do not specifically authorize. Obviously they were hitting at the meetings Judge Lindsey was planning.

Lindsey declared today that he will proceed with his meetings, without consulting Plantiff. He alone among the peace leaders now openly admits that the "game is up" so far as ending the war is concerned.

It was reported today that the peace party will go only to Copenhagen, abandoning the plans to visit The Hague on account of the cool reception in neutral countries visited thus far. The conference will be called at Copenhagen, sit a few days and adjourn after a permanent peace committee has been appointed. It is understood. This committee probably will be William J. Bryan, Miss Jane Addams, of Chicago, Ford the Rev. Josiah Lloyd Jones, and Frederick Holt, provided they accept.

**Why Hanna Quit.**

Governor Hanna's reasons for quitting the party, it was learned today, was the alleged misrepresentation of certain of the lieutenants. When Hanna made informal calls in Norwegian officials, who received him because of his official position, the Ford agents, he alleged, caused the public to believe that these interviews were concerned with the peace propaganda, thus placing the governor in an embarrassing position.

News that Ford actually had sailed for New York reached the party today in a dispatch from Christiania. It threw cold water on the enterprise and spoiled Christmas for many of the delegates who already were homesick. They sat about the lobbies, talking disconsolately and wondering what was going on in America at Christmas time.

Only a few persons met the train here. Mayor Linhaen, of Stockholm, who thoroughly approves the Ford mission, was at the station several hours before, but met the wrong train.

The Stockholm newspapers speak flatly of the Ford lieutenants. When the discussion in the peace party to the newspaper men. The Dagbladet asserted that one correspondent forced his way into Ford's room at Christiania on Thursday with a pistol.

"Ford was frightened and this accounts for his disappearance," the Dagbladet informed its readers.

## SNOWSTORM CAUSE OF FATAL COLLISION

VEDESBURG, Ind., Dec. 25.—Officials investigating the fatal collision in which four met death here Thursday, declared today that a mistake in the transmission of an order and the blinding snowstorm caused the smash-up.

Clover Leaf passenger No. 4, carrying hundreds of persons returning home for Christmas, crashed head-on into a double-header freight train.

The engineer and fireman and a "student" fireman on the first freight engine and the fireman on the passenger train were killed. Thirty passengers were injured, none fatally.

## Principal in Latest Row in Peace Party



GOV. L. B. HANNA.

## WILSON AND BRIDE HAVE XMAS TREE

President and Mrs. Wilson Enjoy Yuletide Festivities at Hot Springs.

HOT SPRINGS, Va., Dec. 25.—About a tiny tree in their hotel suite, President Wilson and his bride celebrated their first Christmas together today. Presents from each other and packages from the "home folks" were opened. There were gifts for each from the families back in Washington. Gifts from members of the cabinet and those not immediate relatives were for the most part held in Washington and will be a part of a supplementary Christmas celebration on their return.

The President about 10 o'clock, went to the private telephone line connecting with the White House in Washington. Wishing whoever answered on the other end a Merry Christmas he asked to talk to his grandson, Francis Sayre, who is enjoying a big tree at the executive mansion.

He asked the youngster about the tree and the presents, and then spoke to other members of the family. Mrs. Wilson also talked. Then a similar proceeding was gone through, this time the bride could send greetings of the day to Mrs. W. H. Holding, the bride's mother, and Miss Bertha Bolling, her sister.

The President and Mrs. Wilson at (Continued on Seventh Page.)

## CARRANZA TROOPS TO PASS THROUGH U. S.

Special Permit Obtained From War Department—Soldiers to Go to Juarez.

For the reason that the Carranza government is distrustful of the loyalty of a large number of soldiers in Juarez who have been affiliated with Villa and is anxious to strengthen its forces there, a special permit has been obtained from the War Department to send about 7,000 Carranza troops through American territory to Juarez. They will be dispatched from Agua Prieta, Nogales, and points in that region and will be sent by rail through New Mexico. The War Department has imposed certain conditions on the passage of the troops, one being that they shall not go through El Paso.

The Seventh Cavalry, which has returned from the Philippines, has arrived at Douglas, Ariz. The headquarters of the regiment is at Douglas, and all but three troops are now at that place.

**New Yorkers Paid Out \$2,580,000 for Turkeys**

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Greater New York spent \$2,580,000 for turkeys this Christmas. There were more than 600 carloads of the birds sold last week at prices from 25 to 35 cents a pound.

## NO CHRISTMAS TRUCE ALONG BATTLE FRONT

Outposts on Alert Along Fighting Line, Although Lull Is Evident.

OFFICIAL ADVICES LACKING

Warm Weather in Near East, But Snow Covers Other Trenches of Belligerents.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—Christmas Day brings no cessation in the slaughter. In every theater of war fighting continues, but no important engagements are expected to occur today.

Nowhere has any formal truce been declared. But along the Franco-Flanders line, where French and British face German firing ceased almost entirely last night while Santa Claus sped along the trenches.

What actually occurred along the battlefield stretching from the English channel to Switzerland on Christmas Eve probably will not be known for another twenty-four hours.

**Lull in Fighting.**

From Paris come unofficial reports of a lull in the fighting along the north and western wing of the long fighting line. Whether the bloody struggle for possession of Hartmannswillerkopf, in Alsace, was continued last night is not known in Paris.

Advances news from the European capitals indicates that seventeen months of man-killing had not dulled the Christmas spirit in the hearts of the warring millions. They picture scenes of merriment not only behind the battlefield but in the first line trenches when presents from home were unwrapped last night and today.

**Few Shots Fired.**

Officers on leave of absence declare that despite the lack of formal truce, few shots will be fired in France and Flanders during the period extending from sunset last night to midnight tonight. While everywhere outposts of the opposing armies are on the alert, they believe no shower of shells will interrupt the Christmas merrymaking.

On the Austro-German-Russian front it is a white Christmas. In the Vosges mountains and at other sections of the Franco-Flanders line snow covers the trenches, but in the Balkans and on Gallipoli, according to latest Athens dispatches, warm weather has greeted the Christmas celebrators.

ROME, Dec. 25.—Kaiser Wilhelm has issued a Christmas proclamation to the people of Serbia, promising to respect their autonomy and urging them to return to their homes.

Advisors to the Serbian legation today said that the Germans have installed a provisional government at Nish, and have forced the withdrawal of all Austro and Bulgarian troops from the city. The Austrians and Bulgars are dissatisfied over this arrangement, the Serbian legation stated.

## RUSS SHIPS SHELL BULGARIAN PORT

BUCHAREST, Dec. 25.—Four Russian cruisers and two torpedo boats bombarded the Bulgarian port of Euxinograd, doing severe damage, according to advices received here today.

The increasing activity of the Russian Black Sea fleet suggests that some of the recent reports about the crippling of the Turkish navy may be true. For the past two months Russian squadrons, apparently unchallenged, have shelled enemy ports and raided Turkish and Bulgarian commerce.

## Troops Diverted to Montenegrin Invasion From Serb Frontier

ATHENS, Dec. 25.—The Austrians are diverting troops from Serbia to reinforce the armies invading Montenegro, according to advices received here today.

Within the past two days no Austrian, Bulgarian, or German forces have arrived at the Serbo-Greek frontier, Saloniki dispatches reported today.